Amendments to the Specification

1. Please amend the paragraph found from page 4, line 20, to page 5, line 12 to recite:

In particular, these retro-inverted peptides specifically bind to one or more of the human gastro-intestinal tract receptors HPT1, HPEPT1, D2H or hSI or their equivalents in other mammals and have general utility in targeting active agents to selected sites and/or selected tissues in the body in which the receptors are expressed. These peptides are synthesized from D-amino acids and have a reverse sequence order of the GIT targeting agents disclosed and claimed in the above-referenced WO 98/51325. The present invention also relates to derivatives (including but not limited to fragments) of these retro-inverted peptides, which derivatives ~~derivitives~~ are functionally similar to the retro-inverted peptides (that is, capable of displaying one or more known functional activities of the retro-inverted peptides). These functional activities include but are not limited to the ability to bind or to compete with binding to the gastro-intestinal tract receptors HPT1, HPEPT1, D2H or hSI or the ability to be bound by an antibody ~~antibdy~~ directed against the retro-inverted peptide. Derivatives can be tested for the desired activity by procedures known in the art, including binding to a receptor domain or to Caco-2 cells, in vitro, or to intestinal tissue, *in vitro* or *in vivo*.

2. Please amend the paragraph found from page 5, line 30, to page 6, line 14 to recite:

Included within the scope of the invention are retro-inverted peptides or derivatives which are modified. e. g., by glycosoylation, acetylation, phosphorylation, amidation, derivation ~~derivitization~~ by known protecting/blocking groups, proteolytic cleavage, linkage to an antibody molecule or other cellular ligand, etc. Any of numerous chemical modifications may be carried out by known techniques. In a specific embodiment, the amino- and/or carboxy-termini are modified. Furthermore, is desired, nonclassical amino acids or chemical amino acid analogs can be introduced as a substitution or addition into the retro-inverted peptides sequence. Non-classical amino acids include but are not limited to α-amino isobutyric acid, 4-aminobutyric acid, Abu, 2-amino butyric acid, γ-Abu, ε-Ahx, 6-amino hexanoic acid, Aib, 2-amino isobutyric acid, 3-amino propionic acid, ornithine, norleucine,

norvaline, hydroxyproline, sarcosine, citrulline, cysteic acid, t-butylglycine, t-butylalanine, phenylglycine, cyclohexylalanine, β-alanine, fluoro-amino acids, designer amino acids such as β-methyl amino acids, Cα-methyl amino acids, Nα-methyl amino acids, and amino acid analogs in general.

3. Please insert the following paragraph before page 6, line 15, of the application:

In certain embodiments the peptides of the present invention are no more than 50, 40, 30, or 20 amino acid residues.